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Name of the Scholar: **Mohsin Tausif**

Name of the Supervisor: **Professor Mujib Alam**

Name of the Centre/Department: **MMAJ Academy of International Studies**

The topic of the Research: **Kurdish Issue in Contemporary Turkey's Foreign Policy and Its Regional Implications**

Findings

The research topic is “Kurdish Issue in Contemporary Turkey’s Foreign Policy and Its Regional Implications”. The Kurdish issue plays a critical role in Turkish foreign policy as it is related to its security, territorial integration, and strategic positioning in the region of West Asia, as well as its ambitions for the European Union. The main idea of this thesis was to study and look into the Turkish foreign policy under AKP rule and the kind of impact the Kurdish issue has on it. I tried to discuss in great detail the evolution of the Kurdish issue in Turkey and in its foreign policy, especially under the present AKP government. The study is based on the Research Questions that lay the basis for my thesis and, eventually, the findings. It’s been perceived that under the AKP government, the Kurdish Issue became more complicated than before and is not as feasible, as the AKP government made an effort to address the Kurdish issue in a more democratic manner than ever before. Changing regional scenarios played a crucial role in the reevaluation of the policies. As the West Asian region went through the upheavals from 2011 with the Arab Spring in neighbouring countries, Turkey also felt the heat. The rise of Islamic states in both Iraq and Syria (ISIS) during this phase also provided considerable challenges for Turkish foreign policy. The challenge posed by Kurds in Syria and Iraq will have a significant effect on Turkey’s foreign policy towards these two countries. For Turkey, the EU accession process is very critical and crucial and can improve the rights of Kurds in Turkey if appropriately dealt with. The study also highlights the AKP’s approach towards Kurds certainly poses significant challenges to its foreign policy, particularly in the context of the USA, its strategic defence partner in NATO, adding a layer of complexity to the issue.